To me, AACC International is a lot like water. It is very special and very unique, and it is essential to the survival of the food industry and its supply chain. AACC Intl. is in fact the universal solvent of the food industry. As such, the science that is relevant to AACC Intl. members is rarely pure and often has applications different from those considered in the laboratory. Additionally, water is the only common substance found naturally on Earth in all three states of matter; and perhaps similarly, our membership is found in academia, government, and industry. This generates polarity and in turn necessitates polarity management, which is the purpose of the Quality of Science Committee (QSC). Polarity is crucial to the value of water. Polarity enables water to form networks that sustain life. Likewise, AACC Intl. seeks, at a fundamental level, to form networks that improve life as we know it. Like the hydrogen atoms in the water molecule, basic scientists working in academia, government, and industry have slightly positive charges. They think deeply and fundamentally, requiring critical mass to make things happen. The oxygen atom, on the other hand, has a slightly negative charge—which is indeed a very good thing! Applied scientists, often but not always our industry members, are looking to apply—and in fact simplify—basic science. The magic is really in connecting these hydrogen and oxygen atoms, and this is the role of the QSC. Properties and reactions beyond one’s wildest dreams occur when four hydrogen bonds form tetrahedral order—and this is what the QSC must strive for. Each peer group must have a Why Do I Care? (WDIC) Committee. The Scientific Advisory Panel will suggest scientific issues around which peer groups will assemble. This assembly will be part self-assembly of our membership, part concerted effort on behalf of our Membership Panel and our Academic and Corporate Partnership Programs. Naturally, such peer groups will fall within our Seven Scientific Initiatives and will help to grow these initiatives. The QSC will be the constant gardener of these delicate networks and the QSC will ensure that their efforts are made visible in the programs, products, and services offered to members. The Quality of Science Committee is responsible for ensuring that the “quality of science” is coordinated and evaluated across AACC International’s publications, core programs of education, and meetings by maintaining focus on the seven specific scientific initiatives established by the association’s board. The committee’s function is to ensure that these initiatives are incorporated into the programs, products, and services offered to members.

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